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**REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**  
**FOR THE**  
**URBAN DISTRICT**  
**OF**  
**SOUTH CROSLAND**  
**FOR 1937.**



# SOUTH CROSLAND

## Urban District Council

### Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Acting under instructions received from the Ministry of Health, this is to be an Ordinary Report, recording only the changes which have taken place in the year under review. As this is the last occasion on which an annual report will apparently be required for this district, owing to the operation of the County Review Order under the Local Government Act of 1929, which has decreed that the district shall be divided into three parts, like ancient Gaul, the major part being absorbed by the County Borough of Huddersfield as from April 1st, 1938, whilst the south western portion is taken over by Meltham U.D., and the eastern portion by the extended Holmfirth U.D. from the same date, it will be interesting to recall some records of 1876, which is the earliest date of which records exist in my possession.

The population of the district at the 1871 census was 2,863, and in 1876 there occurred 113 births and 82 deaths; for 1937 the population is estimated by the Registrar-General at 2,939, and there were 40 births and 38 deaths; the deaths in 1876 included 25 from various forms of infectious disease, and there were 20 of children under one year of age; last year there were five deaths from various forms of infectious disease, and there were only four deaths of children under one year of age.

The lesson from these figures is that during 61 years with an almost stationary population the number of deaths has been more than halved, and the wastage of child life has been diminished by a little less than half. The two rates falling together will result in a stationary population, and this has not been typical of the country as a whole during the period. Perhaps the most striking feature is the diminution of deaths from Consumption, a figure of 11 in 1880 being now reduced to two. These changes are not altogether in our control, but so far as Public Health administration has improved the figures by better sanitation and housing, it should be given credit for good work; one wonders if the next sixty years will show as great changes.

### Section A.—Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area, acres ... ..	1811
Population ... ..	2939
Number of inhabited houses . . . . .	1016
Rateable Value ... ..	£13,786
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£57

Social conditions do not vary from year to year, and trade has been fairly good throughout the year, there being little evidence of unemployment, although hours of work are shorter in many factories owing to variation in trade.

### Vital Statistics.

#### LIVE BIRTHS—

	Total.	M.	F.
Legitimate ... ..	40	19	21
Illegitimate ... ..	...	Nil.	Nil.
STILL BIRTHS ... ..	2	1	1

Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated resident population.—13.6.

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births).—14.3.

	Total.	M.	F.
DEATHS ... ..	38	18	20

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated resident population.—12.9.

There were no deaths from Puerperal causes during the year.

### Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births.—100.

No deaths amongst illegitimate infants.

No deaths from Cancer, Measles, Whooping Cough, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)

### Section B.

#### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### Officers.

Medical Officer of Health, part time, W. H. Smailes, M.D. London D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, Hy. Boys, A.R.San., I.; M.I.M. and Sy. Eng.

#### Laboratory Services.

County Hall, Wakefield; Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

#### Ambulance Facilities.

Meltham U.D.C. Ambulance.

#### Nursing in the Home.

The District Nurse of the South Crosland Nursing Association.



## Clinics and Treatment Centres.

Tuberculosis.—W. R. Tuberculosis Dispensary, Peel Street, Huddersfield.

Venereal Diseases.—Huddersfield Royal Infirmary.

## Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or County Council.

(A) FEVER.—The Colne and Holme Joint Isolation Hospital at Meltham, with 70 beds, serves this area; the beds have been fully occupied during the year, and no complaint has been received that cases from this area could not be admitted. The Council is a constituent authority of the Committee and cases of Puerperal Fever, Encephalitis Lethargica and Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis are admitted by arrangement.

SMALLPOX.—Moor Top, Meltham, 22 beds.

(B) TUBERCULOSIS.—Full provision is made through the County Council working both at the dispensary and in various sanatoria up and down the country. All the arrangements are in the hands of the Tuberculosis Officer for the district.

(C) MATERNITY.—The District Nurse attends patients in their own homes, and others are admitted to the Greenhead Maternity Home in Huddersfield under arrangements made by the County Council.

(D) CHILDREN.—There is a Children's Ward at the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary and an Orthopædic Clinic.

## Poor Law Hospitals.

Since October 1st, 1935, all cases requiring Institutional treatment have been admitted to the County Institution at Deanhouse, with 140 beds.

## Maternity and Child Welfare Centre.

This is held at Meltham and is available for mothers and babies from the South Crosland area.

## Section C.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water Supply.

This is from the Huddersfield Corporation reservoirs and local wells; the supply has been constant and satisfactory during the year, both in quality and quantity; no analyses have been made by this Authority.

#### Cesspools.

No extensions to sewers.

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT, 1937.

Council Offices,  
Netherton,  
Near Huddersfield.

Dr. W. H. Smailes,  
Medical Officer of Health.

Dear Sir,—

I beg to present my Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1937.

The total number of nuisances recorded was 45; 41 of these were abated, leaving four on hand at the end of the year.

Of the nine which remained unabated at the end of 1936, seven have been disposed of, thus leaving a total of six outstanding at the close of the year.

The number of inspections made was 435 for nuisances only, which include inspections of Cowsheds, Slaughter Houses, Bakehouses, Workshops, etc.

## INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Eleven cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year, against three in 1936, 14 in 1935, 24 in 1934, and 17 in 1933.

Of the above, 10 were of Scarlet Fever, and one of Diphtheria.

All the patients were treated in Hospital, the houses disinfected, and disinfectants supplied to the householders.

Drains and sewers at the properties where the infectious disease occurred were afterwards flushed from the mains.

## SCAVENGING.

The sanitary collection of the district is as follows:

Privy Midden Closets emptied ... ..	662
Dry Ashes places emptied ... ..	937
Ashes Bins emptied ... ..	19,450
Producing 1,312 loads of refuse.	

Approximately 290 tank loads have been collected from the tub closets, making a total of 1,602 loads in all.

The above refuse has been disposed of on the Council's tip and on the land.

## SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

There are now three Slaughter Houses in the district, and 44 inspections have been made. The above were found to be kept clean, free from nuisance and limewashed.

## COWSHEDS.

There are at present 34 Cowsheds in use for dairy cattle, and 119 inspections have been made during the year.

These Cowsheds have all been limewashed twice during the year, and in some cases more often.



One shed at Lower Mill Farm has been remodelled, including the provision of a new concrete floor, a new ceiling, new cow stalls, and a new window.

There are still some Cowsheds which need re-modelling.

#### NEW BUILDINGS.

During the year five new houses have been completed by private enterprise. One of these is situate in Church Lane, two in Crescent Road, and two in Henry Frederick Avenue.

Other new buildings include several wood and iron garages, a mill shed, and a number of water closets.

At the close of the year, five houses were in course of erection but not completed.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

All new houses built during the year have been provided with a constant water supply from Huddersfield Corporation's mains.

There has been no failure of any well in the district on which people depend for their supplies.

#### DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

All the drainage of new houses has been connected to the Council's sewers.

The cesspools serving houses which have no access to sewers are 13 in number; these have been emptied twice during the year and in some cases more often.

The manholes and catch pits on the Armitage Bridge low level sewer have been cleaned out on several occasions and the sewers flushed.

No extensions to the sewers have been carried out during the year.

#### SMOKE INSPECTION.

One smoke observation of a mill chimney has been made during the year, and no nuisance was committed.

#### HOUSING INSPECTION.

For Housing Inspection and Housing repairs see Section D—Housing.

#### IMPROVEMENTS EFFECTED

##### DURING THE YEAR.

New W.C.'s to New Houses ... ..	5
New W.C.'s to Existing Houses ... ..	1
Privy Middens converted to W.C.'s—	
12 Privy Middens to 15 W.C.'s.	
Tub Closets converted to W.C.'s ... ..	1
Privy Middens discontinued ... ..	12
New Ashes Bins provided ... ..	61

I remain, Sir,

Yours obediently,

**HY. BOYS,**

Sanitary Inspector.

#### Schools.

The three Schools have been found to be in good sanitary state.

#### Section D.—HOUSING.

##### (1) Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:—

1. a.—Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... .. 41  
b.—Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 123
2. a.—Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above), which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... .. 12  
b.—Number of inspections made for the purpose ... .. 57
3. Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ... .. 3
4. Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the previous sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... .. 26

##### (2) Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... .. 9

##### (3) Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

A.—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:—

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... .. 4
2. Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices ... .. 3
  - (a) By owners ... .. 3
  - (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. Nil

B.—Proceedings under Public Health Acts:

1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... .. 29

2. Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices ... .. 26
- (a) By owners ... .. 26
- (b) By Local Authority in default of owners ... .. Nil
- C.—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
1. Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... .. Nil
2. Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... Nil
- D.—Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—
1. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... Nil
2. Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... .. Nil
- Number of new houses erected in the district during 1937, all by private enterprise ... .. 5
- (4) Housing Act, 1936: Overcrowding.**
- A.—(1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year ... .. 24
- (2) Number of families dwelling therein ... .. 25
- (3) Number of persons dwelling therein ... .. 122
- B.—Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... .. Nil
- C.—(1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... .. 5
- (2) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... .. 28
- D.—Particulars of any cases in which dwelling - houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding... Nil
- E.—Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report ... .. Nil

The major portion of the district is being merged in the adjoining borough of Huddersfield, so that the Council has not deemed it necessary to take steps to remedy the overcrowding shown in the above figures.

## Section E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Bakehouses and Slaughter Houses have been inspected during the year and found to be clean and satisfactory.

## Section F. PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Notifiable Diseases other than Tuberculosis during the year :—

Scarlet Fever.—Ten cases, all removed to hospital; no deaths.

Diphtheria.—One case, removed to hospital, no death.

Pneumonia.—Four cases; two deaths.

No cases of Smallpox, Enteric Fever, Puerperal Fever or Pyrexia during the year.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

New cases and mortality during the year.

Age periods.	New Cases.
	Respiratory. Non-Respiratory.
30—35 1 Male; 1 Female.	2 Male; 1 Female.
No deaths.	All died

## FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

### Inspections.

Factories ... .. 5

Workshops ... .. 20

One nuisance found and remedied; two cases sanitary accommodation found defective and remedied.

I remain, Gentlemen,  
Yours faithfully,

**WM. H. SMAILES,**  
M.O.H.

May, 1938.





